

JURISDICTION:

VIRGIN ISLANDS

This chapter summarizes Virgin Island statutes related to speed. Virgin Islands Code (Updated through May 1, 2000)

General Reference:

Basis for a Speed Law Violation:

Basic Speed Rule:

No person shall drive a motor vehicle at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions and having regard to the actual and potential hazards then existing. Title 20, §494(a)

Statutory Speed Limit:

55 MPH (40 MPH for trucks or busses) on the Melvin H. Evans Highway on St. Croix Title 20, §494(b) & (c)
40 MPH on certain portions of Centerline Road¹ Title 20, §494(b)
35 MPH for motorcars, pick-up trucks or motorcycles outside town limits Title 20, §494(b)
20 MPH for motorcars, pick-up trucks or motorcycles within town limits Title 20, §494(b)
30 MPH for trucks or busses outside town limits Title 20, §494(c)
10 MPH² for trucks or busses within town limits Title 20, §494(c)

Posted (Maximum) Speed Limit:

I. The Police Commissioner³ may reduce the above speed limits where there such action "is necessary for the public safety." Title 20, §494(e)
Note: Virgin Island law does not specifically state whether different highway speed limits may be established either for different types of vehicles, for various weather conditions or for different times of the day.
II. The Police Commissioner is authorized to establish maximum speed limits of not >20 MPH on streets and roads in housing projects or developments. Title 20, §494(f)

Minimum Speed Limit:

No person shall drive a motor vehicle at such a slow speed as to impede, hinder or obstruct the normal and reasonable movement of traffic. Title 20, §494a(a)

Posted (Minimum) Speed Limit:

Based on engineering and traffic investigations, the Police Commissioner may establish minimum speed limits on a highway. Title 20, §494a(b)

Other:

Adjudication of Speed Law Violations:

Civil/Criminal Adjudication of Violation:

All Speed Law Violations are Misdemeanors. Title 14, §§1 & 2 and Title 20, §544(f)

Other:

Sanctions Following an Adjudication of a Speed Law Violation:

Criminal Sanctions:

Imprisonment:

Term (Day, Month, Years, Etc.):

Not more than **6 months**² Title 20, §544(f)

Mandatory Minimum Term:

None

Fine:

Amount (\$ Range):

Not more than **\$200**² Title 20, §544(f)

Mandatory Min. Fine (\$):

None

¹This speed limit applies on "Centerline Road west of King's Hill on St. Croix." Title 20, §494(b)

²"No person shall race on a bicycle or ride a bicycle at a speed of more than 10 miles per hour on the public streets or highways." Title 23, §206 The sanctions for violating this requirement are imprisonment for not more than 30 days and/or a fine of not more than \$20. Title 23, §401(a)

³Such action is subject to approval by the governor. Title 20, §494(e)

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Other Penalties:
Traffic School:
Other:

Licensing Action:
Type of Licensing Action
(Susp/Rev):

Term of License Withdrawal
(Days, Months, Years, etc.):

Mandatory Minimum Term of
Withdrawal:

Miscellaneous Sanctions
Not Included Elsewhere:

I. **Revocation** via Court Order Title 20, §546
II. **Suspension** via the Point System⁴ Title 20, §§801 & 803

I. **Revocation**-The court fixes the revocation period which may be either permanent or temporary. Title 20, §546
II. **Suspension** for not less than **6 months** under the Point System. Title 20, §§801 & 803

I. **Revocation-None** The court's action is discretionary. Title 20, §546
II. **Suspension** for **6 months** under the Point System. Title 20, §§801 & 803

Persons <18 Years Old. Offender's, who are <18 years old, are subject to the following sanctions: A fine **≤\$100**; court ordered license revocation (court determines revocation period); and, the vehicle owned and operated by the offender is impounded ≤60 days. Title 20, §550

Other Criminal Actions Related to Speeding:

Reckless Driving:
Sanction:
Criminal:
Imprisonment (Term):

Misdemeanor Title 14, §§1 & 2 and Title 20, §§492 & 544(a)

Not more than **6 months** Title 20, §544(a)

Other Criminal Actions Related to Speeding:
(continued)

Reckless Driving: (continued)
Mandatory Minimum Term
of Imprisonment:
Fine (\$ Range):
Mandatory Minimum Fine:

None
Not more than **\$500** Title 20, §544(a)
None

⁴**Point System.** A person's driving privileges are suspended for not less than 6 months if they accumulate 12 or more points. This suspension appears to be mandatory. A suspension under the Point System is in addition to any other licensing action provided by law and may run concurrently with such other licensing action. The following points are assigned to speed and speed related moving violations: Reckless driving-9 points; exceeding the speed limit by 30 MPH or more-10 points; exceeding the speed limit by 15 to 29 MPH-8 points; exceeding the speed limit by not more than 14 MPH-4 points; negligent driving not involving an accident-3 points; negligent driving involving an accident with property damage-4 points; negligent driving involving an accident with an injury but no property damage-6 points; negligent driving involving an accident with an injury and property damage-8 points; and, driving too slow-2 points. Title 20, §§801 & 803

Administrative Licensing Actions:

Type of Licensing Action
(Susp/Rev):

- I. **Revocation** via Court Order Title 20, §546
- II. **Suspension** via the Point System⁴ Title 20, §§801 & 803

Length of Term of License
Withdrawal Action:

- I. **Revocation**-The court fixes the revocation period which may be either permanent or temporary. Title 20, §546
- II. **Suspension** for not less than **6 months** under the Point System. Title 20, §§801 & 803

Mandatory Term of License
Withdrawal Action:

- I. **Revocation-None** The court's action is discretionary. Title 20, §546
- II. **Suspension for 6 months** under the Point System. Title 20, §§801 & 803

Other:

Limited Vehicle Impoundment. For failure to appear in court on reckless driving offense, an offender's vehicle may be impounded for such time as the court thinks proper. Title 20, §544(c)
Persons <18 Years Old. Offender's, who are <18 years old, are subject to the following sanctions: A fine **≤\$100**; court ordered license revocation (court determines revocation period); and, the vehicle owned and operated by the offender is impounded ≤60 days. Title 20, §550

Negligent Driving⁵:

Sanction:
Criminal:
Imprisonment (Term):
Mandatory Minimum Term
of Imprisonment:
Fine (\$ Range):
Mandatory Minimum Fine:

Misdemeanor Title 14, §§1 & 2 and Title 20, §§503 & 544(f)

Not more than **6 months** Title 20, §544(f)

None
Not more than **\$200** Title 20, §544(f)
None

Administrative Licensing Actions:

Type of Licensing Action
(Susp/Rev):

- I. **Revocation** via Court Order Title 20, §546
- II. **Suspension** via the Point System⁴ Title 20, §§801 & 803

Other Criminal Actions Related to Speeding:
(continued)

Negligent Driving: (continued)

Length of Term of License
Withdrawal Action:

- I. **Revocation**-The court fixes the revocation period which may be either permanent or temporary. Title 20, §546
- II. **Suspension** for not less than **6 months** under the Point System. Title 20, §§801 & 803

Mandatory Term of License
Withdrawal Action:

- I. **Revocation-None** The court's action is discretionary. Title 20, §546

⁵"Negligent driving" means "the operation of a vehicle upon the public highways of this Territory in such a manner as to endanger or be likely to endanger any person or property." Title 20, §503 Note: This section provides that negligent driving is a lesser included offense of reckless driving.

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II. **Suspension for 6 months** under the Point System. Title 20, §§801 & 803

Other:

Persons <18 Years Old. Offender's, who are <18 years old, are subject to the following sanctions: A fine **≤\$100**; court ordered license revocation (court determines revocation period); and, the vehicle owned and operated by the offender is impounded ≤60 days. Title 20, §550